Schmieder:

In retrospect, it seems so totally natural, but I remember the instant that I heard about the sanctuary program, and I think it must have been 1980, and I was somewhere in Marin County, and I think I came somewhere either to give a talk or hear a talk. And so I was engaged, and I don't remember who it was, but I was having a bit of a conversation with somebody. I should recover that person, because it was pivotal in this.

00:50:00

He remarked to me, almost quote, "Well, you know, there is a National Marine Sanctuary Program sponsored by NOAA. Do you know about that?" and my response was, "No, I don't know anything about that." He said, "Well, you might think about it. Now, that sounds very prosaic, and in retrospect, it was. It was very, very prosaic, but I tracked after it.